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BLACKBURN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T
for 1955.

R. C. WEBSTER.
Medical Officer of Health.

G. R. WHITE.
Senior Sanitary Inspector.
Meat and Food Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1955.

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H. RYDEN, Esq., M.B.E., J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

D. SMITH, Esq., J.P.

Chairman of the Health Committee:

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Yate & Pickup Bank	J. YATES, Esq., J.P.

Medical Officer of Health:

R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

Meat and Food Inspector:

G. R. WHITE, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.

42, Wellington Street (St. John's),

Blackburn.

October, 1956.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BLACKBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year
1955.

Once again, there has been nothing during the year to call
for special comment other than those made in the body of the Report.

I wish to express my thanks to the Clerk of the Council and
to Mr. White, the Public Health Inspector, for their friendly
co-operation throughout the year and to yourself, Mr. Chairman,
and the Members of the Committee, my thanks for the interest and
consideration you have at all times shown.

Yours faithfully,

R. C. WEBSTER.

Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF

THE AREA

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,469
Rateable Value (31st March, 1956)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£87,570
Estimated Product of ld. Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£351
Population, Census 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,245
Resident Population, mid-1955 (Registrar-General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,600
Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.9
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.0

Blackburn Rural District lies to the North, West and South of the County Borough of Blackburn and its population of 13,600 live in two different types of community. The large Parishes adjacent to Blackburn are urban in character, although each still retains its separate community life. The rest of the area is dotted with small villages truly rural in type. Most of the area lies in the Ribble Valley and is given over to pasture and meadowland.

In the immediate pre-war years there was a growing tendency for town dwellers to move into rural areas e.g. the Parish of Wilpshire, which is wholly residential, increased its population by 20% during the years 1931/1951. The Council has developed Housing Estates in Parishes where industrial employment is available, and, as an example, the population of the Parish of Livesey has been increased by 20%. Private development has already started in the area and layouts for a number of Estates have been received.

The Census figures of 1951 reveal that, during the years 1931-1951, there was a noticeable reduction in the population of those Parishes which are sparsely populated and wholly agricultural e.g. Balderstone 19%, Tockholes 13%, and Yate and Pickup Bank 37%. Much of the property in each of these three Parishes is very sub-standard.

The Ordnance Datum varies from 150 to 1,050.

Vital Statistics

There were 155 live births and 5 still births registered during 1955 and 166 deaths from all causes. The birth rate increased from 10.7 to 12.0 per thousand population (England and Wales 15.0) The death rate decreased from 13.6 to 12.9 per thousand population (England and Wales 11.7). The low birth rate and the slightly above average death rate, is explained by the fact that much of the population is made up of retired persons and that there are two Hospitals in the area, one for mental defectives and one for epileptics, accommodating over 2,000 patients.

The main causes of death were heart disease, cancer and vascular disease of the nervous system.

Infectious Disease

There were 208 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year, the largest numbers were of Measles (100) and Dysentery (67).

Scarlet Fever

Only 12 cases were notified and all were of children attending school. The cases were mild in type and there were no deaths.

Dysentery

A total of 67 cases of Dysentery were notified during the year. A majority of these cases occurred in the early part of the year and arose from an outbreak at Cherry Tree School. This outbreak probably arose from a child who had been ill some time before Dysentery was diagnosed. The child's mother, who was a school meals server, became infected and soon many children were absent from school with diarrhoea. A majority of the children in the school were swabbed and all positive cases were excluded from school until 3 negative results were obtained. Two of the school meals servers were involved and both were excluded from work.

Tuberculosis

There were 10 new cases notified in 1955 compared with 11 in 1954. 8 of these were pulmonary in type (3 females and 5 males). There were 2 deaths in 1955, the same as in 1954. At the end of December there were 56 cases on the register as compared with 53 for 1954.

Housing

306 houses have been erected by the Council since the end of the war and at the close of the year there were no houses in course of erection. An examination of the applications for Council Houses reveals that the housing programme has caught up with most priority cases and the following figures give the numbers on the waiting list:-

106 applicants either live in the area or are employed at factories in the area.

35 applicants for aged persons bungalows, all being resident in the District.

141 Total

Water Supplies

Mr. White points out that 81% of the houses in the District have supplies from public mains, and, having regard to the special difficulties of a rural area with some isolated houses, this is a satisfactory over-all picture. But there are areas and there are houses for which the position is unsatisfactory. Especially to be noted are the Parish of Tockholes and the temporary or semi-permanent structures on Haggs Hall Fields. There are other individual houses or small groups of houses also without mains supplies, but the natural difficulties are very great. It must be admitted that our infectious diseases records show no serious results, but the possibilities are dangerous enough. At the same time, one cannot see that it is possible to bring mains supplies, at any reasonable cost, to some of these places.

National Assistance Act, 1948

No action has been taken by the Council under Section 47 of this Act.

Local Health Services

The Public Health Services provided by the Lancashire County Council are controlled locally by Divisional Health Committees composed of local representatives. Blackburn Rural District lies in Health Division No. 5 and the office of the Medical Officer of Health is undertaken together with that of Divisional Medical Officer, who operates both the County Council's Public Health and School Medical Services.

The Nursing Staff includes Health Visitors, School Nurses, Midwives and District Nurses.

The services operated by No. 5 Divisional Health Committee include:- Ambulances, Clinics (Ante-Natal and Child Welfare), School (Minor Ailment) Clinics, Dental Clinics, Orthopaedic Clinics, Ophthalmic Clinics, Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics, U.V.R. (Artificial Sunlight) Clinics, Immunisation Clinics and Child Guidance Clinics.

The provision of clinics for a rural area presents special difficulties. In areas with scattered populations there obviously are problems in providing a full service.

Ambulance Service This service is provided without charge and generally a Doctor's certificate is necessary (except in cases of emergency). The District is covered by ambulances from either Blackburn (Blackburn 44130), Darwen (Accrington 4834) and Great Harwood (Great Harwood 3294).

Ante-Natal Clinics There are no clinics held in the Blackburn Rural District, although advice can be obtained from the Doctor attending the Child Welfare Clinics at Feniscowles, Whalley and Darwen. Clinics held at Darwen and Rishton may be convenient for some residents of the Rural District.

Darwen (Civic Health Centre, Union Street)	Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings and Wednesday afternoons (2 p.m.).
Rishton (108, High Street)	Wednesday mornings (9 a.m.).

Child Welfare Clinics Where mothers may attend with their children for medical examination and for the purchases of infant welfare foods, are held as follows:-

Feniscowles (Mission Hall)	Tuesday afternoons (2 p.m.).
Whalley (Methodist School)	Monday afternoons (2 p.m.).
Darwen (Civic Health Centre, Union Street)	Monday and Thursday afternoons (2 p.m.).

Services for Children of School Age

Minor Ailment Clinics

County Council Clinic, Lord Street, Blackburn	1st Wednesday each month (2 p.m.).
School Clinic, 108, High Street, Rishton	Monday and Friday mornings.
Civic Health Centre, Union Street, Darwen	Monday to Friday mornings and afternoons.

Dental Clinics

County Council Clinic, Lord Street, Blackburn	1st Tuesday each month mornings and afternoons.
County Council Clinic, 108, High Street, Rishton	Appointments - Gt. Harwood 3177.

Immunisation

Immunisations are carried out at the Child Welfare or Minor Ailment Clinics. They can also be undertaken by the family Doctor.

Specialist Treatment

Facilities are available for Specialist examination and treatment of children suffering from eye defects, diseases of ear, nose and throat, orthopaedic defects, for treatment by artificial sunlight or child guidance. Children are first seen at Child Welfare or Minor Ailment Clinics or at School Medical Inspections and the appropriate arrangements are made.

Midwives

The Midwives serving the area are as follows:-

Miss F. I. Grundy, District Nurses Home, Branch Road, Mellor	Mellor 313
Miss L. I. Lytle, 19, Calder Avenue, Billington	Whalley 3113
District Nurses' Home, 58/62, Bolton Road, Darwen	Darwen 1352

Home Nursing

The services of the District Nurses are available on the family Doctor's recommendation. Nursing requisites are available free on loan from any of the District Nurses.

Miss E. Blundell of 10, Jersey Street, Livesey (Blackburn 49415) covers the Parish of Livesey.

The Midwives from Darwen, Mellor and Billington cover the rest of the area.

Home Helps This service is provided in case of sickness or infirmity and arrangements are made with the Home Help Supervisor at the Divisional Health Office. This is not a free service but charges are made according to the circumstances of the applicant.

Hostels for Elderly People Elderly persons who are in need of care and attention, within the meaning of the National Assistance Act, can be provided with residential accommodation, at a charge not exceeding 80/6d. per week, the actual charge being based on the applicant's circumstances. Steps are being taken to provide for accommodation. Application should be made to the Divisional Health Office.

Blind Persons Act Those who wish to apply for Blind Pensions can secure a Specialist examination.

Mental Health The Division has two Duly Authorised Officers and a woman Mental Health Worker who make arrangements for the removal of persons suffering from mental illness to suitable Hospitals. Arrangements are made through the patient's own Doctor.

Hospital Service The County Council has NO control over Hospitals, these are administered by the Regional Hospital Board. In the case of admission to Maternity Hospitals and Homes, the demand is so great that as a rule only those having their first baby or those who have unsuitable home circumstances or some medical reason making Hospital delivery essential are accepted. The Hospital Authorities request the Divisional Medical Officer for a report on these points and on this report the Hospital Authority agrees to accept or decline to book an expectant mother. The Divisional Medical Officer is informed as to the facts by the Health Visitors and Midwives, and from his knowledge of the medical facts, whether from his own or his assistants' examination at Ante-Natal Clinics, or reports received from the patients' own Doctor.

Much confusion exists as to Hospital accommodation for chronic cases of illness often in elderly people. The County Council has NO control over such admission; this is governed by the Regional Hospital Board. It has been arranged that, with the aid of a report from a Health Visitor, the Divisional Medical Officer will advise the Hospital Authority as to the urgency in cases of chronic sickness.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1955

Vital Statistics for the Year 1955

(Population - Registrar-General's Estimate, mid-1955: 13,600)

	Total	Males	Females
Live Births - Legitimate	149	76	73
Illegitimate	6	4	2
Total	155	80	75

	Blackburn R.D.C.	England & Wales
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated Population, mid-1955	12.0	15.0
Still Births per 1,000 total births	31.0	23.1
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated Population	12.9	11.7
Deaths from puerperal causes -		
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis		Nil
Other maternal causes		Nil
Total Maternal mortality		Nil
Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		Nil
Death Rate of infants under one year of age -		
All infants per 1,000 live births		13
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		13
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		Nil
Death Rate of infants under four weeks of age -		
All infants per 1,000 live births		13
Death Rate from Cancer per 1,000 of estimated Population		1.99
Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 of estimated Population		0.15
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		27
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>All Causes</u>	74	92	166
1. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	-	2	2
2. Other Tuberculosis diseases	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm stomach	1	2	3
11. " " lung	5	-	5
12. " " breast	-	-	-
13. " " uterus	-	2	2
14. " " others	8	8	16
15. Leukaemia	-	1	1
16. Diabetes	-	-	-
17. Lesions of nervous system	10	15	25
18. Coronary disease, Angina	12	7	19
19. Hypertension with Heart disease	2	3	5
20. Other Heart diseases	12	19	31
21. Other circulatory diseases	1	1	2
22. Influenza	1	2	3
23. Pneumonia	3	3	6
24. Bronchitis	1	4	5
25. Other respiratory diseases	-	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	1	1	2
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	2	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortions	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	-	1
32. Other diseases	12	15	27
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
34. All other accidents	1	3	4
35. Suicide	1	1	2
36. Homicide	-	-	-

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Total cases at										Age unknown
	all ages	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	12	-	-	-	11	1	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	100	5	19	18	50	7	-	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	10	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	5	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Dysentery	67	2	9	12	14	2	5	12	1	2	8
Food Poisoning	8	-	-	1	-	1	-	3	3	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	201	8	29	31	76	11	7	18	6	7	8

Tuberculosis

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1955

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Years								
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10 -	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<hr/>								
Totals	5	3	1	1	0	2	0	0
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
	8		2		2		0	

No cases of Tuberculosis which had not been notified came to light.

New Housing

Local Authority Houses.

Position at 1st January, 1955

Pre-war - 80

Post-war - 306

Post-war Housing Programme, Total Proposed Houses 346

Houses erected by Local Authority during 1955 42

Houses under construction by Local Authority at end of 1955 Nil

Houses erected by private enterprise

Post-war to January, 1955 92

Completed during 1955 18

42, Wellington Street (St. John's),

Blackburn.

October, 1956.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my seventh Annual Report, which covers the work of the Health Department for the year 1955.

The operation of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, did not produce any marked improvement in housing conditions. Landlords were empowered to increase rents and tenants permitted to challenge increases. It is doubtful whether many rents were increased in this area, and, so far, only three tenants have applied for 'Certificates of Disrepair'. Few property owners took advantage of grant aid to recondition those sub-standard houses which are 'rapidly falling into decay'.

Much of my time during the year was spent compiling a survey of unfit houses for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The details of the survey are recorded on page 19.

The figures presented in the report show that every endeavour is made to pay routine visits to factories and food premises and to make steady progress in the scavenging services provided by the Council.

May I thank the Officials and Staff for their help during the year, the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued encouragement and counsel.

Yours faithfully,

G. R. WHITE.

Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

Four-fifths of the properties in the area are connected to a public mains supply and every Parish, with one exception - Tockholes, is provided for. 70% of the cottages at Tockholes are beyond repair or improvement at reasonable cost and the Parish is so undulating and sparsely populated that the cost of providing a public mains supply would be prohibitive. There are a number of small localities where cost prohibits a mains supply i.e. Clayton-le-Dale (Showley Road - 12 houses), Pleasington (Joodcock Hill - 25 houses), Livesey (Black Bull area - 41 houses), Ramsgreave (Haggs Hall Fields - 12 houses) and Pickup Bank (53 houses). In the case of Haggs Hall Fields, Ramsgreave, most of the properties are wooden huts and should be condemned for living purposes in the near future. With regard to other localities, whilst the cost of laying mains may be prohibitive, the water rate charges are very low compared with gas and electricity charges - all the houses referred to above (excepting Haggs Hall Fields) have electricity installed and some have gas mains. Electricity, was, at one time, a local authority service without cost to the rates, yet the provision of water mains remains a charge on the local authority with a small rate charge on the user for water supplied.

Routine sampling of water from public mains is carried out and occasional checks are made of wells supplying private dwellings. During the year, 8 samples from public mains were submitted for bacteriological analysis, 7 of which were satisfactory. 18 samples of water from private supplies were submitted for bacteriological analysis and of these, 14 were found to be unsatisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage

There are seven separate Sewage Disposal Works in the area serving the major parts of the Parishes of Livesey, Billington, Pleasington and Wilpshire and parts of Salesbury, Clayton-le-Dale, Eccleshill and Balderstone. Langho Colony is also served by these works. The method of treatment adopted is by preliminary sedimentation, septic tanks and sprinkler filtration, or by land irrigation.

A comprehensive scheme for extensions and new Sewage Disposal Works was prepared by the Council's Consultant Engineer in 1947 and was approved in principle by the Council. Some of these proposals have already been carried out and others are awaiting approval by the Ministry.

Billington etc. Sewerage Scheme

The sewers and 3 Sewage Works, which serve the Parishes of Billington and Wilpshire, are considerably overloaded. A combined scheme for the re-sewering of this area and for the sewerage of the Parishes of Clayton-le-Dale and Salesbury, was prepared in 1949, and, towards the end of 1955, approval to go to tender was given by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The scheme provides for the abandonment of the 3 Sewage Works and the construction of a new works and the cost exceeds £100,000.

Mellor Sewerage Scheme

Stage 1 of the Council's re-sewering scheme was completed during 1954 and the bulk of the Mellor sewage is now satisfactorily treated.

Stage 2 (estimated cost £18,550) of the Mellor re-sewering scheme, provides for low level sewers, a pumping station and rising main to serve the Mellor Brook area. This part of the scheme has been deferred for the time being on account of the Government policy restricting Capital Expenditure.

Eccleshill Sewerage Scheme

Stage 2 of the Council's re-sewering scheme was completed in 1954. This provided for the sewerage of a Council Housing Estate of 50 houses, together with other property in the vicinity. Stage 1 of the scheme provided for the abandonment of the Eccleshill Disposal Works (land irrigation), the provision of a pump house and rising main, so as to discharge all sewage to the works of the Darwen Corporation. This work was completed during 1955.

Public Cleansing Service

Much improvement in public cleansing has been made in this area during the post-war years and it is hoped that this progressive policy will continue. The changes that have taken place, from the conversion of privy middens and pail closets, scavenging of Parishes by local farmers using horse drawn carts and giving infrequent collections, have resulted in a more frequent and hygienic service which the public at large enjoy to-day.

It has become a service from which one receives more regular attention than any other, in spite of adverse conditions of weather. The Cleansing Department is equipped with 3 modern refuse vehicles designed for municipal work and the baling of paper is electrically operated. The workmen are provided with 3 sets of protective overalls each year. During the current year, all men were provided with a Donkey Jacket and a waterproof coat and leggings.

During 1955, there were few changes in staff with the result that regular collections of refuse were maintained and there was an increased tonnage of salvage collected.

The low status of the cleansing service in the eyes of the layman is, of course, the first big deterrent to attracting workers, again the collection of refuse is hard and uncongenial work, necessitating employment of men of good physique.

Refuse Collection

The Council have 2 Dennis, side loading refuse wagons, the oldest being purchased in 1948 and the work of the Department is assisted by a Ford Thames 2/3 tons truck. All wagons are worked to capacity.

In November 1952, the Council instituted a weekly collection of refuse in all the most populated parts of the area, in lieu of a fortnightly collection. The change was made without the employment of additional men or vehicles and resulted in reduced mileage.

7 contracts with private collectors, involving 135 houses, are still in operation in scattered localities. In all these cases, roads are so bad that they are only traversable by farm tractors.

Refuse Disposal

For a number of years refuse was disposed of by crude dumping in several disused quarries, all of which became infested by insects and rats. There are now only 2 refuse dumps in use and a system of controlled tipping is in operation. Occasionally, farmers are assisted by the in-filling of pits and levelling of land. Obtaining covering materials for tips continues to be a source of worry and the hand loading of soil and ashes is slow and hard work. Soil in sufficient quantities is, at times, almost unobtainable and as a substitute for soil, it is necessary to collect clinkers from factory furnaces in the area.

The composition of house refuse in the last year or two has somewhat changed due to the fixing of slow combustion fires. The residue from the grates of 'all night' burning fires is put into the dust-bin red hot and is a potential fire hazard on refuse tips.

During 1955, there was a noticeable increase in the amount of paper in the ash-bins and a reduction in the ash content.

Nightsoil Collection and Disposal

Collection of nightsoil is carried out weekly from 503 houses scattered throughout the whole of the district. In 1954, the Council purchased a Dennis Cesspool Emptier with Nightsoil attachment and the nightsoil is now treated at the Council's Sewage Works. In the early months of the year, it was 'touch and go' whether the service would break down because it was not possible to obtain labour to assist the driver in this work.

For many years the Council have made grants towards pail closet conversions so as to reduce the number to be emptied by the Cleansing Department. During 1953, it was decided to increase this payment so as to compare with present day costs. The grant is now half the cost of the conversion with a maximum payment of £15.

Emptying of Cesspools

There are several hundred cesspools and septic tanks in the area and few, if any, receive regular attention by householders. It was made possible for the Council to empty a few cesspools during 1955 by the purchase of a machine for nightsoil collection. The Council do not, however, undertake this work free of charge. It is hoped that householders will now take advantage of this service. All the cesspools emptied during 1955 were practically full of solids and no liquefaction was taking place - coke filters were found to be water-logged and covered in vegetation.

Salvaged Materials

283 tons of salvage were collected and sold during the year (an increase of 16 tons over last year). This is equal to more than 1 ton of salvage for each working day - quite an achievement when one considers that, of the men employed in the Cleansing Department, only eight men are actually concerned in the collection of house refuse.

The value of salvaged materials remained static during the year, but, with the increased tonnage, there was an increase of £315 revenue. (Total revenue for the year £2,136). Waste paper is the principal material salvaged by local authorities and a total of 126 tons was collected. This shows an increase of 11 tons over 1954, but the weight collected is, unfortunately, governed by the space available on the wagons. 102 tons of scrap iron and 47 tons of kitchen waste were also sold.

There are 50 communal street bins in various parts of the district for the collection of kitchen waste. It is an easy and economical means of bulk collection and it has one good feature, in that it reduces the amount of putrescible matter in the dust-bins and on the tips. The bins are, however, far too prominent in the Public eye to escape severe criticism and are not very hygienic.

Provision of Dust-bins

The efficiency of a Refuse Collection Service depends, to a large extent, on the type of dust-bin provided. It is quite common to see on the Public Highway, a collection of almost every conceivable receptacle which could be used for the storage of refuse. True, the local authority may, by Statutory Notice, require the provision of a proper galvanized receptacle by either the tenant or the owner of the property - it is, however, within their power to supply to every house, as a direct charge on the rates, a satisfactory container of whatever size they may wish to have. This scheme could be provided at a cost of little more than a penny rate and would give a more hygienic and easier service to operate.

The Council do purchase galvanized dust-bins of a heavy pattern for resale to owners and householders in the area.

Rodent Control

A Rodent Operative is employed in the search for rats and the treatment of infestations found. In order to encourage the notification of rat infestation by owners or occupiers of private dwellings, the Council provide a free service and the Ministry of Agriculture reimburse 50% of the cost. A charge covering the whole of the cost, plus 20% for administrative purposes, was made for the work done on business premises. The Ministry of Agriculture contributes a 50% grant towards the cost of sewer treatment.

At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, a survey was made of all the farms in the area in 1953 and during 1955 a further 74 farms were inspected. In few instances were there any serious infestations and the farmers were approached by the County Agricultural Committee with a view to arrangements being made for treatment.

Test baiting of sewers was carried out on instructions from the Ministry of Agriculture. This involves test baiting only 10% of the manholes in the area, compared with a treatment of all manholes as previously undertaken. It will be seen from previous reports that there are about 270 manholes in the area and about half of these have never been and are unlikely to become infested by rats. The remaining half are frequently infested, but with test baiting only a proportion of all manholes are covered. It would, therefore, be possible for some manholes to miss treatment for several years, during which time they could become seriously infested.

As in previous years, the only locality where sewers are badly infested is Cherry Tree. This is, no doubt, caused by old sewers, the proximity of the canal and industrial establishments. The banks of the Leeds and Liverpool canal had again become infested and a treatment was carried out.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

19 licences were renewed during the year for individual caravans, although there are still quite a number of hutments in the area which are not yet licensed. These huts have, in most cases, been in the area for 20 years or more.

There are 2 licensed camping sites in the area providing accommodation for a total of 50 caravans. Site standards have been adopted by the Council requiring the provision of proper drainage, water supply and other communal facilities.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT SCHOOLS

There are 12 schools in the area and 11 of these have a public mains supply of water. 3 of the schools are not connected to the sewers and consequently the sanitary accommodation comprises pail closets. Billington C.of E. School has an antiquated system of insanitary trough closets, which discharge into a catch-pit and overflow into a stream. Repeated requests for improvements have been made since 1949, but no works have yet been put in hand. Almost without exception the children attending this school come from homes where there are proper water closets. 8 of the schools have water closets, but at 2 of these the flushing arrangements are not satisfactory.

There is a real need for the improvement of sanitary conveniences and washing facilities at most schools in the area. It is essential that this accommodation should be as near perfection as possible, as it is during school life that a child can be trained and guided in the forming of good habits.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

There are 12 factory chimneys in the area and in 5 cases smoke observations were taken, none of these showed excessive emissions. For several years smoke emissions have been excessive, but there have been no nuisances during 1955. A number of mills are in the process of converting to individual electric motors and one large paper factory has converted to oil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

21 samples of milk were taken from retailers in the area and in 7 cases were the results unsatisfactory. 13 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination to detect tuberculosis and all were reported negative.

Ice-Cream

There are 33 retailers premises on the Council's register. 7 samples of ice-cream were taken from retailers and all were satisfactory.

Meat Inspection

There are 1004 inspections of all animals slaughtered in the area. Most of these were killed at a licensed slaughterhouse which is attached to the farm buildings of an Institution within the district.

Other Food Preparing Premises

Priority of inspections has always been given to the preparation and handling of meat, ice-cream and milk, although few inspections could be made to restaurant kitchens, way-side cafes and other food premises. The Council have adopted Byelaws to secure 'sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food' and these Byelaws came into force in 1950.

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE DURING
THE YEAR IN CONNECTION WITH SANITARY
AND OTHER WORK

Inspections under the Public Health Act	177
Inspections under the Housing Act	426
Inspections and re-visits to Moveable Dwellings	75
Visits to Infectious Disease Cases	379
Rooms Disinfected	13
Inspections of Dairies and Milk Sampling	33
Inspections of Slaughterhouses	33
Inspections of Meat Shops	11
Inspections of Bakehouses	15
Inspections of Provisions Shops	26
Inspections of Fried Fish Shops	3
Inspections of Ice-Cream Premises	28
Inspections of Restaurant Kitchens	37
Inspections of Licensed Premises	7
Inspections of Factories (other than Bakehouses)	23
Inspections of Schools	30
Inspections in connection with Scavenging Schemes	678
Inspections of Drains	289
Inspections in connection with Water Supplies	83
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	26
Inspections under Petroleum Acts	26
Inspections in connection with Rodent Control	126
Smoke Observations	5
Other Visits interviewing Owners, etc.	134
Total	2683

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	-	2	17	115	35
Number inspected	-	2	17	115	35
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerici</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	4	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	75	10
Percentage diseased other than tuberculosis and cysticerici	-	-	5.9%	68.7%	34.3%
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	2
Percentage affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	5.7%
<u>Cysticerici</u>	No evidence found.				

HOUSING INSPECTIONS

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total no. of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	390
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	512
(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:	
(a) No. found during year	111
(b) No. (or estimated no.) at end of year	102
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	65

2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):-

(1) No. of dwelling-houses demolished during the year:	
(a) Unfit houses	-
(b) Other houses	-
(2) No. of persons displaced	-

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:-

	No. of Houses Persons Displaced	
(1) Houses demolished or closed during year:		
(a) Housing Act, 1936 -		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	1	2
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	3	1
(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12)	-	-
(b) Housing Act, 1949 -		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2)	-	-
(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 -		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2)	5	2
(2) Repairs during the year:		
(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts		59
(b) Public Health Acts - action after service of formal notice - Houses in which defects were remedied -		
(i) By owners		1
(ii) By local authority in default of owners		-
(c) Housing Act, 1936 - action after service of formal notice (Sections 9,10,11 and 16)		
Houses made fit -		
(i) By owners		-
(ii) By local authority in default of owners		-
(d) Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954:		
Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)		-

4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):-

(1) No. of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7	-
(2) No. of separate dwellings contained in (1) above	-
(3) No. of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6)	-

HOUSING ACT, 1936 : PARTS II AND III

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954 : SECTION 1

Required Form of Proposals

Local authorityBLACKBURN.RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.....

CountyLANCASTER.....

Total number of permanent dwellings in the local authority's area 3818.

Part 1. The total problem

- (i) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under section 11 or section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936270.
- (ii) Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (i)10.

Part 2. Orders already made, etc.

- (iii) Number of houses in (i) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the local authorityNIL.
- (iv) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operativeNIL.

Part 3. Action in the first five years

- (v) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five yearsNIL.
- (vi) Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister59.
- (vii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, for temporary accommodationNIL.
- (viii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be demolished in the five years59.
- (ix) Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under section 11 of the Housing Act, 193652.

WATER SUPPLIES

Parish	From Public Mains		From Private Supplies	
	Direct to houses		e.g. wells, springs etc.	
	No. of dwelling-houses	No. of population	No. of dwelling-houses	No. of population
1. Balderstone	83	249	34	102
2. Billington	653	3994	90	270
3. Clayton-le-Dale	181	513	21	63
4. Dinckley	22	66	4	12
5. Eccleshill	123	335	9	27
6. Livesey	804	2363	94	282
7. Mellor	378	1182	57	171
8. Osbaldeston	49	147	10	30
9. Pleasington	124	372	53	159
10. Ramsgreave	238	721	41	123
11. Salesbury	110	337	9	27
12. Tockholes	-	-	140	420
13. Wilpshire	353	1209	29	87
14. Yate & Pickup Bank	30	90	83	249
Total - Whole District	3148	11578	674	2022

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION IN THE DISTRICT.

Privy Middens	Nil
Pail Closets	503
Ash-pits	Nil
No. of Premises with Fresh Water Closets	3361
No. of Houses with Waste Water Closets	63
No. of Houses with Moveable Ash-bins	3499
Pail Closets converted into Fresh Water Closets	25

RODENT CONTROL

Sewer Maintenance Treatments

First Half Year

(Zinc Phosphide and Sausage Bisk)

42 manholes baited

6 manholes showing prebait take

3 manholes showing complete take

Second Half Year

(Arsenic and Bread Mash)

23 manholes baited

12 manholes showing prebait take

10 manholes showing complete take

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Report for the Year ending 31st March, 1956.

	Local Authority Properties	Dwelling- houses	Agricul- tural Premises	Business Premises	Totals
No. of properties in District	37	3,491	352	236	4,116
No. of properties inspected					
(a) As a result of complaint	-	45	1	2	48
(b) Routine inspections	21	27	74	20	142
No. found infested by rats					
(a) Major infestation	1	-	-	-	1
(b) Minor infestation	15	45	2	14	76
No. found seriously infested by mice	2	10	-	8	20
No. of infested premises treated by Council	18	55	2	20	95

Public Cleansing

The following figures summarise the amount of refuse collected by direct labour and contractors during the year:-

<u>Visits to Premises.</u>	<u>Pans Emptied.</u>	<u>Bins Emptied.</u>	<u>Loads.</u>	<u>T.</u>	<u>C.</u>	<u>Q.</u>
179,305	26,832	152,473	1,818	4,537	5	3

Salvage.

The following weights of salvaged materials were collected and sold during the year:-

<u>Material.</u>	<u>Quantity.</u>				<u>Value.</u>		
	<u>T.</u>	<u>C.</u>	<u>Q.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>s.</u>	<u>d.</u>
Paper	126	10	2	-	1,208	18	1
Kitchen Waste	47	12	-	-	195	4	2
Textiles	5	12	-	12	132	3	0
Non-Ferrous Metals	-	14	2	20	79	14	9
Scrap Iron	102	16	2	-	436	8	8
Carriage on Paper					62	1	2
Carriage on Kitchen Waste					21	14	11
<hr/>							
Total	283	5	3	4	£ 2,136	4	9
Profit on Dust-bins for the year					28	19	7
<hr/>							
	283	5	3	4	£ 2,165	4	4
<hr/>							

Emptying of Cesspools & Septic Tanks.

<u>No. of Loads.</u>	<u>No. of Gallons.</u>	<u>Revenue.</u>		
		<u>£</u>	<u>s.</u>	<u>d.</u>
45	13,500	70	10	0

TONNAGE AND REVENUE FROM SALVAGE COLLECTED BY
BLACKBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL CLEANSING DEPARTMENT

SALVAGE	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Waste Paper	47	51	50	59	72	86	108	90	115	116	126
Kitchen Waste	44	46	56	58	59	56	58	53	49	53	48
Rags	7	6	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	4	4	8	6	6	6	6
Non-Ferrous Metals	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1
Scrap Iron	-	5	2	3	-	-	39	51	70	91	103
Jam Jars	3	3	3	4	-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	3	1	-	-
TOTALS	101 $\frac{1}{4}$	111 $\frac{1}{2}$	115 $\frac{3}{4}$	128 $\frac{1}{4}$	135 $\frac{1}{4}$	149	217 $\frac{1}{2}$	203 $\frac{1}{2}$	241 $\frac{1}{2}$	267	284
REVENUE	£536	£632	£652	£705	£745	£950	£2,600	£1,717	£1,508	£1,821	£2,136

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1955 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BLACKBURN IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1. - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Inspections (4)	Number of Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	M/c line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	6	6	2	-	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	38	32	5	-	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	3	3	-	-	3
Total		47	41	7	-	

2. - CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were in- stituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspec- tor (5)	By H.M. Inspec- tor (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	3	3	-	-	-	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	1	1	-	-	-	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)-							
(a) Insufficient	9	-	-	-	-	-	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	2	2	-	1	-	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	1	1	-	1	-	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	-	-	-	-	-	12
Total	60	7	7	-	2	-	60



